

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SCI-06 HEW-08 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /083 W

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R 021043Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1479

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR F&V DIVISION, FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG PROPOSAL TO FURTHER EXTEND TEMPORARILY
6 PPM LEVEL OF TBZ FOR CITRUS

1. THE FRG MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS
PROPOSED AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT 6 PPM TOLERANCE FOR
TBZ AS A PRESERVATIVE FOR CITRUS FRUITS. ALTHOUGH PRIN-
CIPALLY IN ACCORD WITH THE HIGHER LEVEL OF 10 PPM PRO-
POSED BY THE U.S. AND OTHER CITRUS EXPORTERS SUCH AS
ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA, THE FRG STRATEGY IS TO FORCE THE
COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER THE CLASSIFICATION OF TBZ AND
OTHER SUBSTANCES SUCH AS DIPHENYL, DIPHENYLAMIN AND SOPP
AS PESTICIDES RATHER THAN PRESERVATIVES. FOR THIS REASON
THE FRG REJECTED AN EC PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY CLASSIFY
TBZ AS A PRESERVATIVE WITH A MAXIMUM TOLERANCE OF 10

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PPM. FRG MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE THE
FRG PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED.

2. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WAS ALSO ADVISED OF AN FRG
ORIGINATED PROPOSAL IN BRUSSELS TO ABANDON RETAIL LABEL-
ING REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS QUOTE TREATED WITH DIPHENYL,
TBZ, ETC. PEEL NOT FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION UNQUOTE.
HOWEVER, PROTESTS BY CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS FORCED THE
DECISION TO THE HIGHEST MINISTRY LEVEL WHERE IT WAS DE-
CIDED TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL. MINISTRY OF HEALTH EX-
PERTS INFORMALLY ADMITTED THAT THE DECISION WAS INCONSIS-
TENT WITH SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS AND UNNECESSARY FOR CONSUMER
PROTECTION, AND FURTHER THAT LABELING OF TBZ, DI-
PHENYL, DIPHENALAMIN, SOPP ETC., IS NO LONGER A
SCIENTIFIC MATTER BUT PRIMARILY A POLITICAL ONE.
HILLENBRAND

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